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Editorial

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND

The fifth annual meeting of the Classical Association of New England, held at Hartford, Conn., April 1 and 2, was one of the best of the series. The Association has always avoided trenching on the more technical work of the American Philological Association, but it has sought to bring before its members original work of a broadly humanistic character, and in fields interesting equally to the college professor and to the teacher in the preparatory school. While ample place was given in this meeting to questions of a purely pedagogic character, and while the discussion of these questions was animated and profitable, the general influence of the meeting was to quicken the interest in the broader and higher aspects of classical studies. We have been reading a good deal of late as to the deadening effect of the graduate courses in our universities on the men who are coming out with the Doctor's degree, and who, according to the representations and protestations of the magazine writers, are losing all ability to see the finer literary and historical values in the classics. Anyone who has been alarmed by such representations must have been reassured by hearing the papers of Professor Clifford H. Moore of Harvard, the incoming president of the Association, Professor Hendrickson of Yale, Dr. Robinson of the Hotchkiss School, and Professor Sills of Bowdoin. These papers were significant illustrations of the application of sound scholarly method to the study of literary problems, and of the finer appreciation of literary values that is the fruit of such work; young men who are being trained under masters like these are in safe hands.

The Association heard with great satisfaction Professor Kirtland's exposition of the meaning of the report of the Commission on Latin Requirements, and of the larger freedom and efficiency that the schools will secure through its adoption by the colleges. It was good news that Yale, as well as some of the smaller colleges, has already adopted the recommendations of the commission, and that a meeting of the heads of the Latin departments of the New England colleges is to be held the coming week to discuss the report, with the prospect that it will be generally adopted. If the report of the commission has been, as stated in a recent editorial of the *Journal*, of only academic interest to the institutions of the Middle West and South, it has nevertheless been the question of the hour to the schools of New England; their suffering under the petty and needless differences of requirements in Latin on the part of the several New England colleges has been acute, and they are profoundly grateful to Professor Kirtland for his inauguration and prosecution of the campaign for their relief. It seems that we shall not much longer hear of such absurdities as a Yale section and a Harvard section in the Senior Latin class of Phillips Andover and Phillips Exeter, or of a Dartmouth section working after school hours in the Manchester High School.

In the matter of the discussion of entrance requirements the Association was greatly indebted to Professor McCrea of Columbia for a minute analysis of the weakness in current Latin teaching as revealed by the reading of entrance papers presented to the Entrance Examination Board. Much more of such detailed study of the actual results of preparatory teaching is needed, both for the enlightenment of preparatory teachers, and for the guidance of examiners who must adapt their requirements to what can reasonably be accomplished in the schools.

The Hartford meeting was unusually pleasant in its social features; the announcement of one hotel as the headquarters of the Association, the holding of the evening session in its parlors, with provision for a social hour at the close, and the arrangement for the members to lunch together on the second day of the meeting secured the opportunity for that greeting of old friends and making of new ones that is so large a factor in the value of such meetings. For this, as well as for a program arranged with unusual skill and carried out without a

break, the Association is indebted to its retiring president, Frank P. Moulton of the Hartford, Conn., high school.

The attendance was good, but not nearly what it ought to have been. A good deal of missionary work ought to be done the coming year by present members in increasing the membership, especially among the high-school teachers. Those who in 1905 attended the preliminary meeting at which the formation of such an association was discussed will remember how at the morning session at Harvard University Professor Morgan urged the fact that classical teachers have a work to do in maintaining the place of Latin and Greek in the American schools that can be accomplished by no casual and occasional efforts, waiting on personal convenience; of how he called for a hearty rally of all friends of classical studies, and for the free giving of time and labor. Seymour, too, and Warren and Wright were all there that morning, and all joined in the call to enlist in the new movement. No one who looked back to that first day could fail to be impressed in this fifth meeting with the losses that have followed fast one upon another; it is good to have known such men, to have felt the impulse of their lives; it is an act of piety to carry on their work.

C. D. A.